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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THE WEEKLY STANDARD.

The Constitution and the Union of the States:
"They must be preserved."

RALEIGH:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1850.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Gov. Manly, in his Message, "cannot undertake to say" whether a majority of the people of the State are in favor of alterations in the Constitution or not; but he nevertheless thinks that a law ought to be passed at once "for taking the sense of the voters upon the question of change or no change." If "no change" should prevail, why then Equal Suffrage would be defeated; but if the people should vote for "change," the next step, as doubtless anticipated by the Governor, would be an *unlimited Convention*! Is he in favor of that? Are the Whig leaders for it? If so, why not say so in so many words? Why this evasion? Why this marching up and falling back? Why not meet the question at once and like men?

The Governor furthermore says that this "demand for reform" has grown so rapidly that it now "embraces a change in the basis of representation in the General Assembly." Who put that "demand" in? Who raised it up, from the dust of repeated and signal defeats, and gave it to vitality and official sanction? Gov. Manly, and yet he lacks the candor to say that he is for it, or that he considers the demand for it a just and reasonable one. It was "a good enough at Morgan" on the stump; but it is handled in his Message as if he was afraid of it—as if it had pushed itself forward without being called for. The truth is, this point in his Message is the most insidious and unbecoming part of the entire document. He hints what he feared to say; and he essays to put the Legislature on a course of policy, by his "change" and "no change" suggestion, which he, himself, as a private citizen, would not doubt vote against at the polls. But this, in his public career, is not surprising.

He is on a level with his silence in the *East*, in 1844, in the School Fund question, and his advocacy, in the *West*, in the same campaign, of a distribution of that Fund according to white population; and it is in perfect keeping with the course of many of his Eastern friends in the late campaign, who denied that he had taken this latter ground in the *West*, and who were only informed and convinced of their error by the plain and pointed revelations of his annual Message. We charged, in the late campaign, that he had not only taken ground in favor of the white basis for the School Fund, but in relation to representation in the Legislature; and we proved what we said. Whig partisans denied it, and denounced our paper in the bitterest terms as the vehicle of misrepresentation and falsehood. *Who was right in this matter?* Let the records—the proofs declare! We are satisfied in this regard; and we think it more than probable Gov. Manly's Eastern friends are not. They were grossly deceived, and they have a right to be indignant. But we have no disposition to dwell upon these points. We designed only to offer a suggestion or so in relation to proposed Constitutional amendments, and upon the Convention question.

We think the Senate and House have adopted the proper course in referring the various Convention bills to the Committees on Constitutional amendments. We can perceive no good reason for calling a Convention, whether "limited" or "unlimited." The various Constitutional amendments proposed can be effected by legislative action, in good time, and without the agitation and expense incident to a Convention. The Constitution itself points out the mode by which it can be altered; and, in the absence of any general demand by the people for a Convention, let that mode be observed. There is no necessity for passing these measures in the same bill. They can be passed separately—Equal Suffrage in one, Judges and Solicitors in another, and Justices in another—and be put to the people, to stand or fall upon their own merits. We do not fear that either of the propositions will fail. They will all go through, at the polls, by majorities of thousands; and we shall thus have reform without expense and without sectional strife. Indeed, we do not believe that any considerable portion of the Western people even are in favor of a Convention; and we are confident, from all we can learn that a majority of them are satisfied with the present basis of representation—or, at least, if they had the power to do so, they would not disturb it at this time. But they are in favor of Equal Suffrage, and Judges, Solicitors, and Justices by the people; and they expect this Legislature to adopt the necessary means, in accordance with the Constitution, for carrying out their wishes in this respect.

Mr. Woodfin no doubt spoke his real sentiments, and those of a large number of his Whig constituents, in his violent white-basis effort on Wednesday last; but we cannot believe that Mr. Rayner is in favor of a Convention of any sort. Of course we do not charge deliberate insincerity upon the gentleman from Hertford—he is above that; but he wants his political opponents to "show their hands" while his hand is very boldly displayed, and he would no doubt like to see a few Western Democrats caught in his legislative trap. That, according to our judgment,

is about the extent of his designs on this subject; but the manner in which he was met on Monday last, by Mr. Avery, in that able and manly Speech of his on this very question, is a foretaste of the disappointment to which the gentleman from Hertford is doomed. His Convention bill will fail, and he may vote, upon the strength of its failure, against Free Suffrage. If he should, he will rue it—and so will Mr. Woodfin, if even he should adopt such a course.

We repeat, we can see no good reason for calling a Convention. The demand by the people for reform can be effected by legislative action, and a Convention is therefore unnecessary. This is the ground we took on this subject in 1848, and we shall continue to adhere to it. And what, may we ask, would be the result of a Convention? Do gentlemen suppose that any Convention which could be called, would interfere with the present basis? Could such a body do more than establish Equal Suffrage and provide for Judges, Solicitors, and Justices by the people? And if not—and if these results can be attained by legislative action, why call it? Why incur an expense of some thirty or forty thousand dollars, especially at a time like this, when the Treasury is empty and when the taxes on the people must, of necessity, be increased? Why foment strife and discord between sections, when the section which, it is declared, calls for the white basis, cannot obtain that basis at the hands of the majority? Why provoke a contest, in which the two sections will for a time be arrayed against each other, and then fall back to their old positions, with the relative weight and power they had before, but with feelings inflamed and resentments more deeply seated? Would such a course be wise? Would it be in accordance with the wishes and expectations of the original and sincere friends of Equal Suffrage? We think not.

If we have spoken freely on this subject, we have done so because the occasion appeared to demand it at our hands. We do not mean to reflect upon any one, or to assign to any gentleman a false position; but our duty it is our purpose to discharge, if we know how, under all circumstances and in every crisis. We have thus repeated our opinions without reserve on these important questions. Will Mr. Rayner give his? Is he for or against a Convention? He may not have an opportunity of casting a direct vote upon the question in the Commons, and it is therefore necessary, if he would be clearly and fully understood, that he should speak out. His constituents no doubt expect him to do so, and the Whig party of the State in general are looking with some attention to his course. We assure him that there is no "trick" or "contrivance"—no "Legislative legerdemain" in this call which we make upon him. We know that he never resorts to such weapons, and it would therefore be unfair in us to use them against him.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Our readers will find full sketches in our paper to-day, of the proceedings of the two Houses from Monday to Wednesday inclusive.

On Thursday, in the Senate, no business of importance was transacted. That body was engaged, for the most part of the day's sitting, on Bills and Resolutions on their second reading, and in receiving Reports from Committees.

In the Commons, on Thursday, Mr. McLean, Chairman of the Committee, made a Report from a majority of the Committee on Constitutional amendments, and asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the matters referred to them. The Committee reported against the proposition to submit the election of Judges and Justices of the Peace to the people—against an amendment limiting the Legislature in its appropriations of the public money, and in favor of Equal Suffrage, accompanied by a bill. Mr. Foster, of Davidson, submitted a minority report, accompanied by a bill, leaving it to the people to say whether they will have a Convention or not, and if so, making provisions for an election of Delegates. The whole question of Constitutional Reform will probably be discussed in the House during the ensuing week.

On Monday next the two Houses will assemble in the Commons Hall to compare the votes for Governor; and on Tuesday the Resolutions of Mr. Bridges, in relation to the North Carolina Rail Road, will come up for consideration in the Commons.

On Thursday last Maj. William J. Clarke, of this City, was elected Comptroller of State over William F. Collins, Esq., by the following vote: Clarke 87, Collins 73, scattering 3. We announce this result with sincere gratification. Maj. Clarke is worthy, in every respect, of the confidence reposed in him by his friends and of the honor thus bestowed upon him. He will make one of the best officers the State ever had. We consider him peculiarly qualified for the post, and we are confident he will so discharge his duties as to attach his numerous friends still more strongly to him. We know the man.

The most important office in the gift of this Legislature—that of Treasurer—is yet to be filled. This election will take place some time next week. The people expect a Democrat to be elected to this post, and it is the duty of Democratic members to see that this is done. There is no safety in scattering votes, or in voting against the party nominees. The Whigs have had the State Government for fourteen years, and in all that period they have uniformly preferred and promoted their own men. We owe it to the principles, to our self-respect as a party, and to the Governor elect, to adopt the same course towards them; and especially with reference to this important office of Treasurer. We hope, therefore, that our friends will present a united front in this election, and that a sound and able Democrat will be elected.

GRAND LODGE.

We learn that the following Officers for the ensuing year, have been elected by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, at present in session in this City:

A. T. JERKINS, of Craven, Grand Master.
MR. BLACKWELL, of Rowan, Senior Warden.
J. A. ROWLAND, of Robeson, Junior Warden.
C. W. D. HUTCHINS, of Raleigh, Treasurer.
WM. T. BAIN, of Raleigh, Secretary.

GEORGIA ELECTION. Eighty-five counties in Georgia have been heard from, and thus far only twenty Secessionists have been chosen to the Convention. The majority in favor of remaining for the present in the Union, will be very large.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.

Monday, December 2, 1850.

The Senate met according to adjournment.

Messrs. Lillington and Spaight were announced as the Senate's branch of the committee on enrolled bills for the present week.

Mr. Caldwell of Mecklenburg presented a memorial from sundry citizens of Mecklenburg, praying for the increase of the tax on retailers of spirituous liquors. Referred, on his motion, to Finance committee. Also, a memorial relating to the public execution of criminals. Referred, on his motion, to the Judiciary committee. Also, the resignation of Daniel Walsh, a Justice of the Peace for Mecklenburg County. Read and accepted.

Mr. Cameron introduced a bill to incorporate Independent Division No. 3, Sons of Temperance. Read and referred to committee on Corporations. The Senate informed the House that they had passed the following engrossed bills and resolutions: A bill to incorporate the Fayetteville Bridge Company—a bill to incorporate the Fayetteville and Southern Plank Road Company—and a resolution in favor of F. J. Prentiss and others.

Mr. Woodfin presented a memorial from sundry citizens of Buncombe, relating to the destruction of stock. Referred, on his motion, to the Judiciary committee. Also, a bill to amend and alter an act passed in 1848-49, entitled an act to lay off and establish a County by the name of Watauga. Laid on the table. Mr. Caldwell of Burke presented a memorial from sundry citizens of Watauga County, remonstrating against any attempt to attach any part of said County to Burke and Yancey. Laid on the table.

Received a message from the Commons informing that their branch of the committee on the Deaf and Dumb Institute consists of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Avery, Williams, Hill, Montgomery, Jenkins, and Maulsby. The Speaker announced Messrs. Washington, Cameron and Watson as the Senate's branch of this committee.

Mr. Thomas, from the committee on Internal Improvements, reported the bill and accompanying memorial concerning the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad, with sundry amendments, and recommended the passage of said bill. Said bill was ordered to be printed. Mr. Thomas also introduced a bill to incorporate the Tennessee River Rail Road Company, which was read the first time, and on his motion ordered to be printed.

Mr. Washington introduced a bill to amend the 7th section of the 5th chapter of the Revised Statutes in relation to apprentices. Read first time and referred to Judiciary committee.

Mr. Woodfin a bill to change the mode of dividing the proceeds of the Literary Fund among the several Counties of the State. Mr. Shepard moved that said bill be referred to the committee on Education and the Literary Fund, which, after some debate, was decided in the affirmative—yeas 13, nays 10, as follows: Yeas—Messrs. Arndell, Barnard, Barrow, Berry, Bond, Bunting, Caldwell, of Mecklenburg, Canaday, Clark, Collins, Elborn, Grist, Herring, Hester, Hoke, Jones, Joyner, McMillan, Mallory, Nixon, Pender, Richardson, Rogers, Sessions, Shepard, Sherrod, Speight, Thompson, Washington, Watson, Willis, Williams, and Woodfin—34.

Nays—Messrs. Barington, Bower, Bynum, Caldwell, of B., Court, Davidson, Gilmer, Hargrave, Kelly, Lane, Lillington, Thomas, and Woodfin—13. [This is the first time the yeas and nays have been called in the Senate at the present session.]

On motion of Mr. Woodfin, his bill calling a Convention was taken up and made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

On Thursday, the Clerk was directed to have printed for the use of the Senate the names of the members of the standing and select committees of the Senate and of the Joint committees of the two Houses.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, the Senate adjourned till to-morrow morning 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker announced the following committee: House Branch of the Committee on the Deaf and Dumb Institute.—Messrs. Avery, Montgomery, Hill of New Hanover, Jenkins, and Maulsby.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

Mr. Waugh presented a memorial from certain citizens of Forsyth county, praying a repeal of the law of 1848-9 concerning a road from Stone's old place in Forsyth to the Virginia line in Ashe county, so far as Forsyth county is concerned, and moved its reference to the committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. McLean thought it ought to go to the committee on Propositions and Grievances, and made that motion. He said it was a grievance of which the people of Forsyth complained, and it did not properly go to the committee on Internal Improvements. Mr. McMillan urged its reference to the committee on Internal Improvements. Mr. McLean said a portion of the work was already completed, but not a stroke of work had been done in Forsyth, because the people there were opposed to it. He was opposed to the repeal of the act desired by the petitioners, as it would render the road useless; and insisted that memorial ought to go to the committee on Propositions and Grievances. Mr. Leach of Davidson, said it was a work of State Improvement, and it ought to go to the committee on Internal Improvements. After some other debate, the memorial was referred to that committee.

Mr. Hayes of Cherokee, presented a memorial from S. P. Tipton, asking for the payment to him of \$813, being expenses paid by him for the purchase of land for the soldiers of the North Carolina Regiment at Saltillo, Mexico; referred to committee on Claims.

Mr. Williams of Mecklenburg, a memorial from the officers of the 69th Regiment, N. C. Militia, praying certain amendments to the Militia law; referred to the committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Sheek presented the resignation of A. Mathews, one of the Justices of the Peace of Surry county; read and accepted.

Mr. Ruffin, a memorial praying for the incorporation of the town of Madison; referred to the committee on Private Bills.

Mr. Fleming, a memorial from sundry citizens of Yancey county, praying the restoration of Stephen McMahon to the privileges of a free citizen, which he enjoyed previous to his conviction for felony in 1841; referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Kallum presented a bill to prevent more effectually the corruption of the slave population; referred to the committee on the Judiciary. [Bill provided for the punishment of white men and free negroes playing cards with slaves.]

Mr. Kelly introduced the following resolution: Resolved, That the committee on Finance be requested to inquire into the expediency of increasing the tax upon all pedlars, and if not at variance with the Constitution, to require all persons who are not native-born citizens of North Carolina to pay more than those who are.

Mr. Person of Northampton, a bill to incorporate the Garysburg and Oconeechee Plank Road Company; referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Dargan presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were referred to the committee on negro slavery:

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina, during the agitation of the slavery question, in the last Congress of the United States, calmly awaited the action of the Federal Government, hoping that the compromise Act would settle this dangerous question satisfactorily, both to the Northern and Southern States, but finding that the fugitive slave act has met with open hostility and resistance on the part of the North; Be it therefore

1. Resolved, That if the fugitive slave act is not enforced in good faith, we consider it a violation of the Federal compact, and will consider ourselves absolved from further allegiance to the Union.

2. Resolved, That we hold allegiance and protection to be reciprocal duties, and that whenever a government becomes either so corrupt or inefficient as not to protect the property or liberty of the citizen, that the Government itself is dissolved.

3. Resolved, That if the fugitive slave act is repealed at this or any subsequent session of Congress, the State of North Carolina will secede from the Union.

Mr. Barco, a bill to regulate the fishing with seines in the North River in the counties of Camden and Currituck; referred to committee on Private Bills.

Mr. Cherry, a bill to exempt from sale by execution a certain property; ordered to be printed. [This is a homestead bill, the provisions of which will be given hereafter.]

Mr. Leach, of Davidson, introduced the following resolution, which was referred to the committee on negro slavery:

Resolved, That should Congress repeal the Fugitive Slave Bill passed at its last session, or essentially modify it, and should any non-slaveholding State by Legislative enactment or otherwise, render its provisions inoperative, that it shall be the duty of the Governor to convene the Legislature to take such steps in the premises, as in their wisdom may be deemed best for the defence of North Carolina, the security of her property, and the maintenance of her rights as a sovereign State.

The Speaker laid before the House the report of the President and Directors of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb; referred to the joint select committee on that institution.

A message was received from the Senate announcing the Senate Branch of the committee on enrolled bills for the present week. The House branch of same committee to consist of Messrs. Ruffin, Cherry, Waugh, and Scott.

CONVENTION QUESTION.

Mr. Fleming, a bill to submit to the people at the next August election the question of "Convention" or "no Convention" to amend the Constitution, which was read the first time.

Mr. McLean moved the reference of the bill to the committee on amendments to the Constitution.

Mr. Fleming did not wish this bill to go to that committee. He might be willing to have it sent to a select committee raised for that purpose, but he preferred to have it considered without the intervention of a committee.

Mr. Leach only desired that all these matters should be referred to the committee. He was a member of it, and it was best that they should have everything connected with this subject of amending the Constitution before them, and then they could report what amendments, in their opinion, ought to be adopted.

The report of a committee was only an expression of opinion, and the House could adopt it or not, as it saw proper. He hoped that every amendment proposed would be referred to the committee.

Mr. Fleming was utterly opposed to its reference to the committee. The bill he had introduced merely proposed to submit an isolated question to the people. He did not consider this question as coming properly under the jurisdiction of the committee. It was appointed to consider amendments only. The proposed amendments, he only leave it to the people whether or not they will call a Convention.

Mr. McLean could not conceive why all matters relating to amending the Constitution should not be sent to this committee. He thought every proposition of this kind should be sent to it. There seemed to be a suspicion resting on the committee—a fear that the bill would not receive due consideration. He thought it entirely unfounded.

Mr. Avery understood the committee to have been raised to consider this whole question, and to consider in what way the Constitution should be amended. He thought it proper and parliamentary to refer all these matters to it. He did not fear the reaction of the committee, and it was nothing more than common courtesy to send everything on this subject to it. It was extraordinary that this bill should lie on the table, while every other amendment was referred to the committee. He should vote for the reference of this bill to that committee, and to send everything connected with the question in the same direction.

Mr. Foster of Davidson, said he was a member of the committee, and he wished the House to consider that it was composed of very old and revered gentlemen. He thought it was in bad taste for the committee to insist upon the reference of this bill to them, when the mover of it did not desire such a disposition to be made of it, and should vote against the reference. He wanted nothing to do with a bill which the introducer was unwilling to trust to the committee. If it referred, the committee will make such a report upon it as they think it their duty to do. He wanted no man's bill to be sent to that committee against his own wishes.

Mr. Ruffin should vote for the reference as a matter of duty to the House. He considered this bill germane to the subject under the consideration of the committee, and therefore it ought to be submitted to their consideration. The insinuations thrown out against the committee from various parts of this Hall, he was not disposed to submit quietly. It seemed as if the action of the committee was looked to with suspicion. He could see no good reason for it. It was his duty as a member of that body to vote for the reference.

Mr. Fleming said, however unusual his course might appear, it was not more so than for a committee to claim the consideration of his bill. It was admitted that it was composed of young and inexperienced men, and that was a good reason why it should not be referred to them. He insisted that the committee had no power to consider the subject; its action was confined to the consideration of amendments. He was unwilling to submit to the action of the committee. Their decision would be dictating to the people of North Carolina, and he held that a committee of this House had no right to dictate to the people.

Mr. McLean wanted to know where the gentleman from Yancey got his information from, with respect to the action of the committee. No report had yet been made, and no one could know what opinion they entertained. He asked that this committee should be treated with the same consideration as other committees of this House. He could not conceive why reflections should be cast upon this committee; there was not the slightest reason for it. If this bill was not referred to them, he should ask the House to discharge the committee from any further consideration of the matter which they were instructed to consider.

Mr. Jones expressed his entire confidence in the committee; it was precisely the kind of a committee which this question ought to have been referred to. They were not committee either way, and were free to form correct and unprejudiced opinions. They were the very gentlemen of all others that should have been selected for this purpose, and this bill, and every matter connected with the subject, should be referred to them for consideration. At the beginning of the session, it was usual to stake out the business of the session. One subject was given to one committee for consideration, and another subject to another committee. If this rule is departed from now, it will produce confusion, and interrupt the regular order of business. When the committee make a report, the whole subject will come up again—let them make a report, and then the House can take up this subject if it chooses.

Mr. Blow said he was a member of the committee, and should vote against the motion to refer. If the gentleman from Yancey was unwilling to trust the committee with the bill, he wanted nothing to do with it. Mr. Erwin said he should vote against the reference, and desired to give his reasons for so doing. He had some fears with regard to the action of the committee; they did not exactly agree with him in

his views. He did not wish to have the action of the Committee against the bill, but desired a direct vote on it from this House. He thought the committee were a little tainted with old hunkerism, and feared they would not propose the amendments he wished to see carried out.

Mr. Stevenson remarked that the friends of this bill were afraid for the committee on amendments to the Constitution to get hold of it, yet they professed to be willing to allow it to go to a select committee. They seemed quite anxious to send it to a committee which would be sure to make a favorable report upon it. Although this committee had been characterized as young and inexperienced, the gentleman on the other side seemed afraid that their report, which it was assumed would be an unfavorable one, would carry so much weight with the House as to cause the bill to be snuffed under. Their object seemed to be to get the bill referred to a select committee, and then secure the appointment of such a committee as would make a favorable report upon it.

Mr. Hill, of Caswell, would vote for the reference. The bill ought to be sent to that committee together with everything relating to the subject. He understood those gentlemen who opposed the reference to fear that the bill would be snuffed under by the action of the committee. He had no fears about it; he believed the committee would consider it fairly, and do full justice to it.

Mr. Caldwell of Guilford, was opposed to its reference, because he believed it to be a solemn duty to his constituents and to the freedom of North Carolina to do so. The committee, he believed, favored certain interests which were not the interests of his constituents. He was opposed to the reference for three reasons. First, because a majority of the committee were in favor of retaining the present basis; second, he feared the committee would make this a party question; and third, that the committee would delay their report to so late a day the Legislature would have no time to act upon it. He should vote against the reference, not out of any disrespect to the young gentlemen on the committee, but in the discharge of a duty he owed to his constituents. The House might as well proceed at once to consider this bill; the mind of every man was doubtless made up. He was not in favor of sending bills to a committee. Mr. Caldwell went on to say that it was time for the friends of the white basis to move; he was not one who would submit. He was going on to speak of the distribution of the school fund, when the Speaker interrupted him for alluding to a subject irrelevant to the matter under consideration.

Mr. Leach, in addition, wished to state one reason why he should vote against the reference of this bill, and he should vote out of no disrespect whatever to the committee. He did not view this subject as a party question, but rather as a sectional one, and did not fear any party manoeuvre to strangle it. But he should vote against the reference because the committee had already partly settled upon their report, and he did not wish to impede their action with new matter.

Mr. Rayner should vote against the reference, not out of any disrespect to the committee, but because he thought there was no necessity for the action of a committee on it. Committees were appointed to arrange and digest business, but on this question the public mind was made up. He was bound to vote against the reference, for two years ago, the subject was sent to a committee, and there delayed so long that no time was allowed for the action of the two Houses. If he was a member of the committee, he should thank the House for relieving him of this business. The committee entertained various sentiments on this question, and so did the members of the House. There was no possibility of harmonizing public sentiment. He preferred to manage his own business, and in the case of his own bill, did not desire the action of a committee upon it. He repeated again, he intended no disrespect to that committee.

Mr. Avery remarked that some of the reasons adduced by the gentleman from Hertford, (Mr. Rayner) against the reference of this bill, were good reasons. A gentleman is to have his own bill here, and promulgate his own views, the business of the Legislature would never terminate. The same rule applied to this as to every other committee, and everything relating to the subject with the consideration of which they were charged, should be sent to them. He gave notice now that when this bill was disposed of, he should call up, as he intended to do, the bill of the gentleman from Hertford, and also, the bill of the gentleman from Haywood, in order to have them referred to this committee. All of these bills were proper subjects for their consideration. When they made their report, the subject would come up again. It was an unusual and unparliamentary course to have a committee, and then refuse to send its business to the House for its consideration. It was a bad precedent, and it was customary to dispose of business in this way, and it was calculated to expedite the transaction of business.

Mr. Rayner said his experience was different from that of the gentleman from Burke, (Mr. Avery). He thought it the proper way to make all these bills the special order for a certain day. All of them could be taken up one day and disposed of. He had intended to make such a motion. He had no idea that the report of the committee would have any influence with the House, and did not believe they could throw any additional light upon the subject under consideration. He wished to test the feeling and views of the House; he wanted to try the nerves of gentlemen on this question, and to see what they would do. The House was best disposed of this matter; it would be a herculean task for the committee to consider every proposition that any member of the House might choose to refer to them, and the best way was for the House to decide upon this question without the intervention of the committee.

Mr. Cherry was opposed to any amendment to the Constitution whatever; he went for a Constitutional amendment, and was opposed out and out to all amendments. He was no free suffrage or free soil man. He should vote against the reference as he desired a direct vote of the House upon it.

Mr. Foster of Davidson, did not believe the committee should have anything to do with this bill. He considered it a courtesy due to the mover of a bill to allow it to take such a direction as he wished. He was in favor of laying the motion to commit on the table. Mr. Brogden was deeply surprised at the language of the gentleman from Guilford, (Mr. Caldwell). There was no use of having committees if everything relating to the various subjects which they were charged to consider, was not referred to them. This committee had half a dozen different propositions already before them, and it was proper that they should consider them. He concurred in opinion with the gentleman from Hertford, (Mr. Rayner), that the committee was not a sectional one as viewed by the gentleman from Guilford, (Mr. Caldwell). The committee was composed of three western and two eastern men. All matters relating to amending the Constitution should be referred to this committee, and he trusted the House would sustain the motion to commit.

Mr. Caldwell of Guilford, intended no disrespect to that committee, nor to ensure the chair for their appointment. But he said that the committee was so constituted that its action would not accord with the views of its constituents, or of the freedom of North Carolina. It was true a majority of that committee were western men, but they were in favor of retaining the federal basis of representation, and therefore he was opposed to referring to them a bill which he knew they would handle. He repeated that he intended nothing disrespectful to the committee.

Mr. Rayner inquired of the gentleman from Surry, (Mr. McLean) whether the committee were not already charged with the consideration of all these questions. Mr. McLean said that the committee had been instructed to inquire into the expediency of submitting

the question of "Convention" or "no Convention" to the people just as the bill proposed to do, and he was surprised that time had not been given the committee to report upon it. This bill seemed designed to forestall the action of the committee; he did not understand why the committee should have a long session with this very subject by resolution, and then a bill introduced without waiting for their action.

Mr. Rayner renewed his inquiry, whether the committee had not been charged with the whole subject.

Mr. McLean went on to remark that it was strange that before this committee reports, a bill should be introduced to forestall its action. He could not conceive why it should be so; there must be some reason not yet made known, why the friends of this bill introduced without waiting for their action. Mr. Rayner renewed his inquiry, whether the committee had not been charged with the whole subject. Mr. McLean went on to remark that it was strange that before this committee reports, a bill should be introduced to forestall its action. He could not conceive why it should be so; there must be some reason not yet made known, why the friends of this bill introduced without waiting for their action. The reason might be that the committee would not make a report to suit them. He had not supposed that so much importance was attached to the report of the committee. He only asked that this committee should be treated with the same respect as other committees, and that all matters connected with this subject should be referred to them. He was disposed to give every thing that was sent to them a full consideration, and report such a bill as he thought proper.

Mr. Fleming thought the committee assumed authority not delegated to them. The committee was appointed to consider amendments to the Constitution; this bill proposed no amendment, but merely to submit the question to the people, whether they would have a Convention or not. It was entirely a different question. The advocates of the bill ought not permit it to go to the committee. Bills were frequently strangled in committee, and he anticipated such action on this bill.

Mr. Blow said that the remarks of the gentleman from Guilford had convinced him that he was wrong. He said he knew that the committee were in favor of the federal basis of representation, and he should therefore vote for the reference.

Mr. Ruffin said the committee had been appointed to consider the whole subject; he considered this bill germane to the other proposition already referred to them, and should be sent to them. He was not anxious that this bill should go to the committee, but he did think it should be treated with the same courtesy extended to other committees. The introducer of the bill had expressed himself willing to refer it to a select committee, but was unwilling that it should be sent to a committee already charged with the subject. There seemed to be a distrust of the committee, and one gentleman had remarked that the object of the reference was, for the committee to refer the bill under, and not to give it due and full consideration. He thought, however, the committee were disposed to do justice to every matter that might be referred to them.

Mr. Jones, in addition to what he had said before, remarked that he concurred entirely in the opinion that the whole matter should be referred to this committee. In whatever light this subject might be viewed, it amounted to nothing less than a plain disrespect to the committee, and amounted to a discharge of the committee from any further consideration of the subject. Disrespect was not intended for it had been disavowed, but still it was nothing else. If this bill of Mr. Fleming's was adopted by the House, there would be no use of a report from the committee; this report would be a mere formality. He stated that a refusal to refer would be equivalent to a discharge of the committee.

Mr. Rayner said there was no species of parliamentary management or legerdemain, by which members could evade a direct vote on this question; there was no way in which they could get off without showing their hands. Bills were often strangled in committee rooms, and if the object of the committee was to strangle this bill, it was no discourtesy to charge it. He alluded to party warfare in Washington City, and remarked that the passage of a bill frequently depended on the committee to which it was referred. He believed that a committee had a perfect right to strangle a bill if